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# THE UTAH STATESMAN

Thursday, March 31, 2016  
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**NEWS |** Quidditch World Cup  
USU Quidditch Club team is making its way to nationals in South Carolina.

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**STUDENT LIFE |** PoBev  
See why Poetry & a Beverage was named “Best event series” in the nation.

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**SPORTS |** Meet Down South  
The USU gymnastics team will travel to Salt Lake this weekend to compete in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Find out all you need to know about it.

see PAGE 7

## A SNAPSHOT OF USU’S LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The Utah State Legislature wrapped up on March 10 by allocating money for Utah State University for the 2017 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Here is a snapshot of USU’s financial allocations:



GRAPHIC BY ALAYNA LEAMING

**By Morgan Pratt**  
STAFF WRITER

The Utah State Legislature wrapped up on March 10 by allocating money for Utah State University for the 2017 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

There were positive signs in the budget for USU and overall for higher education, said Neil Abercrombie, the director of government relations.

Abercrombie said it is great representing USU on Capitol Hill each year because so many legislators genuinely appreciate the university’s value. He said that recognition

comes in part because President Stan Albrecht built a legacy of working with the legislators.

“They like him, they trust him and he’s had a huge amount of political impact on the state of Utah,” Abercrombie said. “We are in a great spot because of President Albrecht.”

### \$38 MILLION FOR THE NEW LIFE SCIENCE BUILDING

The new building will be a learning space for a wide variety of programs and departments that study life, including cell biology, neuroscience, evolutionary biology and ecology, among others.

Maura Hagan, the dean of the College of Science, said in an email to the Statesman that the groundbreaking for the building will be

about a year from now. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2018 and it will be ready for classes before the spring semester of 2019.

The Life Science Building will feature a set of 21st century state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching labs. The new building will address the shortage of undergraduate science teaching space and allow the college to better meet the needs of the growing population of more than 1,600 students each year.

“We currently have two biology teaching labs operating well over capacity,” she said.

She said such severely limited capacity has caused unaccommodated students to fall

behind an entire year, as they struggle to complete prerequisites needed to progress in their degree programs and complete graduation requirements.

**\$5 MILLION FOR SYSTEM-WIDE PERFORMANCE FUNDING**

Depending on the performance as a university, money is given back depending on how well USU does. That is system-wide, meaning it is really allocated to the system office and there are metrics of performance, Abercrombie said. But he said this allocation is one small step forward, because he hoped to get more performance funding.

see “Legislative wrap up” PAGE 8

## What happened to the grass on Old Main Hill?

**By Brenna Kelly**  
SENIOR WRITER

Spring is just around the corner, but students may have noticed that Old Main Hill has remained decisively brown.

Last fall, a full-time university employee mistakenly applied weedkiller to the turf on Old Main Hill. They meant to use 2,4-D, an herbicide that does not harm grass, but accidentally mixed in glyphosate, a broad-spectrum herbicide and grass-killer.

“The person who sprayed informed us of the mistake after that fall, when we could start to see something wasn’t right,” said Rob Reeder, Director of Facilities Maintenance. “We went back and discovered the issue.”

Reeder said the employee has been applying herbicides for years, and they also mixed the batch of fertilizer that was applied.

“There was a container that was mislabeled, which we feel caused the problem,” he said. “We think that maybe one of this persons’ assistants might have mis-mixed or mistaken the container for something else.”

An investigation is ongoing. Reeder said he is not certain where the issue lies, but he said he has remedied the situation.

“We have gone through our mixing area, separated all the chemicals, so there are two distinct locations at the opposite end of the room so this cannot happen again,” he said. “Mistakes happen. We’ve dealt with this internally.”

But Old Main is not hopeless this season.

“It’ll grow back,” said Paul Johnson, department head and professor in the Plants, Soils and Climate Department.

Johnson has been with the university for 18 years, and it’s not uncommon for him to



Old Main Hill, after a certified applicator sprayed a mixture of chemicals including glyphosate, a chemical known to kill grass, on the north side of Old Main.

receive calls for advice after incidents like this, as his area of expertise is turf-grass — “all these things we walk on and play on and trample on.” When Reeder called him last fall, Johnson said he felt bad for him.

“Fortunately, we will not have to re-sod,” Reeder said. “We’ve been working with experts in the college of agriculture who’ve given us advice on what to do without major expense.”

Under the direction of Johnson, Reeder tined the hill and replanted with a mixture of bluegrass and rye. The seeds will germinate in the next couple weeks and — slowly — turn green.

“We’re expecting full recovery,” Reeder said.

Last week facilities applied another seeding and a top dressing in order to agitate the seeds, catalyzing germination. Kentucky Bluegrass and perennial rye are both commonly used in the region.

“They’re well-adapted to our relatively cool climate. They can take a lot of traffic, like you see on the Quad. There are not many grasses that can tolerate the amount of activity we see out there,” Johnson said. “The rye grass will germinate faster, and so it’ll see a quicker green.”

Johnson said as the weather warms up, the

seeds will start to germinate. He has no reason to believe the seeds will not germinate, he said.

“You would not pick that to happen anywhere on campus,” Reeder said. “Anywhere to occur on campus would be a misfortune and something that would need to be addressed. Unfortunately it happened in a high-visibility area.”

Reeder said the hill will be green for commencement, whether the seeds germinate or not. If needed, facilities will dye the grass.

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# Astronaut visits USU

**By Morgan Pratt**  
STAFF WRITER

Kent Rominger presented to a group of Utah State University students on Tuesday March 29 in the Engineering building. He told about his life-changing career as an astronaut and a retired Navy captain.

Rominger is a self-proclaimed adrenaline junky. He said he can't get enough acceleration whether he is skiing, paragliding, skydiving or piloting NASA space missions.

"I always want more power," he said. "I've never been in or on anything yet that has enough power."

He compared flying to being in a ride at a theme park. It is like a theme park ride, except it takes eight and a half minutes to reach orbit, and the shuttle speeds are from zero to 18,000 miles per hour, all while experiencing pounds of thrust, he said.

"When you look out the window and see the state of Florida disappearing at a phenomenal rate, your mind can't process that speed," he said.

Rominger was a captain in the Navy before he became an astronaut for NASA. He flew five space shuttle missions with 685 landings in various aircrafts and he logged more than 7,000 flight hours in more than 35 different

aircrafts before retiring from the Navy and NASA.

He said being an astronaut gave him a unique perspective on life. When he was on his first mission, he could see the world from an entirely new perspective, including the air pollution looming over places like Mexico City and China. Looking at that pollution he said he realized he had to take as much care of Earth as possible.

"Our planet is precious, there's this thin little atmosphere that protects us," he said. "We need to do everything possible to take care of our planet."

Rominger said if he could pass on advice, it is dedication to what one loves, finding leadership opportunities, but most importantly, having fun. There are times when it is appropriate to buckle down and be serious and learn, but it is also paramount to have fun all along the way, he said.

"On my crew, our motto had been if you're not having fun, you're not doing it right," he said. "Have fun no matter what you do. It's OK to have fun. We will all do a better job when you need to do it."

Rominger was the first person to present for USU's recently revived Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity. Andreas Weseman, with the Aviation Technology program, said the



PHOTO BY **Jace Goodwin**  
Kent Rominger, retired astronaut, presents to a group at Utah State University Tuesday, March 29th.

fraternity was around for many years, but it fell apart for about 15 years. He said they are rechartering the club for three purposes: to foster a mentor program for those in the aviation technology program to guide new members of the program, to provide more scholarships for people in the aviation program and to be able to host a speaker every year.

"Let's shoot for the stars and we were able

to actually get an astronaut," he said.

Sterling Hatch is the new Alpha Eta Rho club president and a senior in aviation technology. He said it was fascinating to hear about an astronaut's experiences.

"We were so happy to get the astronaut here so he could talk about the different fields of aviation," he said.

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# Aggies catch the Golden Snitch: Utah State Quidditch team headed to national championship



PHOTO BY **Sofia De La Vega**  
Devon Anderson attempts to score at the team's regional tournament in Los Angeles.

**By Whitney Eversol**  
STAFF WRITER

They may not have had flying broomsticks, but that didn't stop the Utah State Quidditch Club team from qualifying for U.S. Quidditch Cup 9, the national Quidditch championship tournament.

The team will head to Columbia, South Carolina on April 16-17 to compete against 60 of the country's top teams.

Quidditch is a co-ed, full-contact sport, said Devon Anderson, one of the team's captains. The game was born on the pages of the Harry Potter novels, and is played in essentially the same way it is in the books, except for the flying issue, as well as some different rules with the "snitch." Though the sport has been

around for 10 years, the Utah State Quidditch Club began just last year, when Anderson was a sophomore.

"It's a lot more legit than I thought it would be," Anderson said. "I saw a flyer for it last year and just kind of thought it was a joke. It ended up being the most physical activity I have ever done. I have a football and wrestling background, and it's way more intense than those things."

The team just missed the cut for nationals eligibility last year, but this year they finished second out 27 teams at the regional championships in Los Angeles. The nationals team, comprised of 14 players, nine of whom are freshmen, has already traveled to seven tournaments this year. They qualified for nationals just five weeks ago, and immediately

had \$10,000 to raise.

"It's been an expensive year for everyone," Anderson said. Anderson and his co-captain, Cameron VomBaur, have been hard at work organizing fundraising efforts. The team has set up an Indiegogo page, and have been selling t-shirts outside the campus store for \$12 each. According to Anderson, the money they raise will go towards travel and hotels, and everything else is coming out of the players' pockets.

Even more important than fundraising, Anderson said the biggest way students could contribute to USU Quidditch is by getting involved. Practices are all open, and are held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 6-8 p.m. at Legacy Fields. They will soon be moving to the Quad, weather permitting. The

team is looking to expand, and is considering adding a junior varsity team to its current roster because of a spike in interest.

"Every single person I've ever met who has legitimately tried it enjoys it," Anderson said. "I don't think I've ever seen someone come to just one practice."

He explained that the sport has gotten progressively less "nerdy" over the years. While original players started out wearing capes and riding brooms, it has evolved to a different stage of sophistication, replacing brooms with PVC pipes and capes with coordinated uniforms. Now, Quidditch brings people together, regardless of their background with Harry Potter or any other aspect of life. In fact, the team's captains last year had never read a Harry Potter book or seen a single movie.

"You have people who are there just because they love Harry Potter, but then you have people that just like to hit people and have a good time, and then you have the middle ground," Anderson said. "That's one thing I really love about Quidditch is it brings people from a lot of different backgrounds."

The Quidditch community is known for being a very open and close-knit group, widely accepting of the LGTB community and anyone else, regardless of background.

"It will become your family, for sure," Anderson said. "I really do just love my team."

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# Aggies should think, care, act on Day of Civility

**By Mandy Morgan Ditto**  
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time at Utah State University, Aggies Think, Care, Act will sponsor a Day of Civility on Thursday, March 31.

"Basically we just want — it's a big goal — but we want to achieve about 17,000 acts of kindness in one day," said Ashley Fischer, a student representative for Aggies Think, Care, Act and senior studying FCHD. "This event promotes service projects on campus and in our community. That's what Aggies Think, Care, Act is: it's to look out for one another and just care about each other."

Aggies Think, Care, Act (ATCA) is a part of USU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and other groups around campus,

including USU Housing, Access and Diversity, the Vice President's office and Utah State University Student Association (USUSA), are helping to sponsor Day of Civility.

"More and more the world is seeming like not a safe place," said David Bush, director of CAPS. "We thought 'What could be a good thing that Aggies Think, Care, Act could get behind ... how could we promote that kindness is more powerful than aggression, that love is greater than fear?'"

ATCA wanted to also build off of what was done during USUSA's Mental Health is No Joke week, to continue to promote good mental health and a sense of a caring community on campus, Bush said.

"I know this is probably naive, but we thought what if you had all 17,000 Aggies

doing the simplest thing, all on the same day?" he said.

They also thought that it would be good time of year for pick-me-ups, due to some gloomy weather, Bush said. They thought it would be a "perfect time of year to say 'Look for a way to make a positive difference in the world,'" Bush said.

Those sponsoring the event have 10 suggestions for students in regards to things they can do on Day of Civility:

1. Write a thank you note.
2. Post a compliment.
3. Send a letter of gratitude.
4. Perform a random act of kindness.
5. Leave a treat for a roommate.
6. Thank a professor.

7. Help a neighbor.
8. Share a smile.
9. Sing someone a song.
10. Invite a friend to the ARC.

They also suggest that students visit the Val R. Christensen Service Center on campus to help promote service projects on campus and in the community.

For more information about Aggies Think, Care, Act visit their Facebook page at: facebook.com/aggiesthinkcareact, and for more information on CAPS, visit: usu.edu/counseling.

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# Thinking for the future: Artificial Intelligence

By Shanie Howard  
STAFF WRITER

As artificial intelligence (AI) technologies such as the Amazon Echo and self-driving cars are hitting the market, they are poised to become an essential part of society. For people around the world, especially college students, this could mean some big changes.

Once created, an AI can be used either internally or externally. Internal interfaces are located on a cloud and can access other devices and software that is used in the home such as a TV or smartphone. Technology like the Amazon Echo, which can access apps that are downloaded on a smart phone, is an example of this, but in comparison this technology is rudimentary compared to what others have developed.

In 2007, an artificial intelligence called the EMOSpark was created. This intelligence was very different than what Apple and Microsoft companies have been trying to create because it can detect human emotion. As it has developed, its ability to respond to human emotion has become even better. In a society where depression is so common, especially in students, this technology could make a huge difference.

In comparison, the external processor is very far behind on a technological basis. An external processor uses the internal interface but it is limited to one machine. Scientists are currently focusing the development of this technology on motor skills, which can be much harder to learn.

“A camera takes pictures. Right? We have millions of pixels, but these are just numbers. But they don’t really have meaning in them-

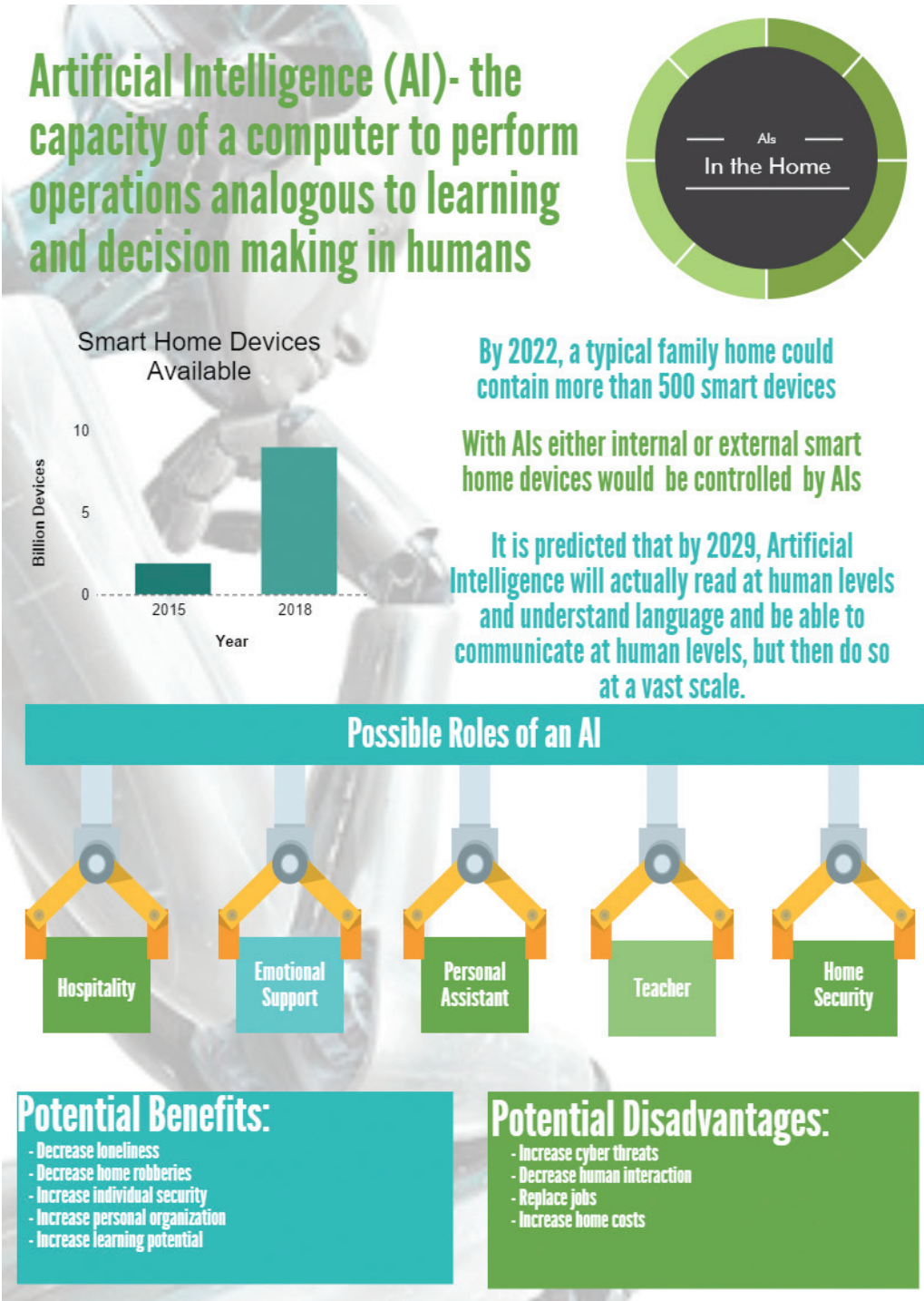
selves. So, the task for artificial intelligence and computer vision algorithm is to take these numbers and convert them into meaningful objects,” said Dr. Fei-Fei Li, a Director at the Stanford AI Lab. Currently AIs are unable to actually perform simple tasks such as folding a shirt — a task the team at the Stanford AI Lab is currently trying to teach one of their robots.

Experts, however, believe that the complete development of both technologies will take off in the next few years. “These technologies expand exponentially. They double in power roughly every year, so look at The Genome Project. It was a 15-year project. Halfway through the project, 7.5 years into it, 1 percent had been completed, so some people looked at it and said, 'Well, 1 percent, we have just barely started.' I looked at it and said, 1 percent, well, we’re halfway through ... from one perspective, we’re in the early stage in artificial intelligence, but exponentials start out slowly, and then they take off,” said Ray Kurzweil, director of engineering at Google, to PBS reporter Hari Sreenivasan.

Despite the excitement from some, many experts caution against the advancement of AIs. When asked about a revamp of the technology he uses to communicate, which involves a basic form of AI, famous scientist Stephen Hawking said, "The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race."

Despite this dark prediction, artificial intelligence continues to develop and as it does so, more and more benefits become available to the human race.

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GRAPHIC BY Shanie Howard

# Subsidizing college misses the mark



**CHRIS CROOK**  
“I’m not a crook”  
—After trying what feels like every program at USU Chris started studying economics. He is most interested in quantifying political issues such as election campaigns.  
  
— chris.crook@aggiemail.usu.edu

Election season has arrived and with it an increased focus on issues expected to drive potential voters to the polls. Increasingly popular, particularly on the Democratic side, is the topic of making college education more affordable. As students at USU, this is arguably the most pressing policy debate for us, along with the ability to find a good job upon graduation. Unfortunately most of the solutions being proposed miss the crux of the problem.

A common argument made revolves around

the fact that tuition is rising at a much higher pace than inflation. This is true — in the last 20 years the average cost of public universities has increased 296 percent. During the same period inflation rose by 55.1 percent. There is absolutely no question that the cost of school has far outpaced inflation. The question remains, what should be done about it?

The most popular answer to this problem consists of two parts: increasing federal subsidies to cover rising tuition costs and allow refinancing of student loans at lower rates. Many policy makers accept the possibility of reliance on student loans with the requirement that future loans interest rates be cut dramatically. These methods are meant to reduce the burden of education costs on students. The financial burden of education is no joke with an estimated national student loan debt estimated to be around \$1.2 trillion. The act of helping current students is commendable but it misses two critical questions. Why is tuition rising almost six times faster than inflation and what benefit do students

reap from paying so much more than previous generations?

There is no shortage of explanations as to the first question. Theories abound stating that expanding federal aid, expensive campus construction, and growing bureaucracy at colleges are all causes of disproportionate growth in tuition prices. Each of these three areas do show incredible amounts of correlation with the upward movement of the price of education. While correlation isn't the same as causation, it is valuable in finding causation.

Rising evidence points to a growing relationship between federal subsidies and tuition rates at universities. Multiple studies have found tuition hikes at certain universities immediately after an expansion in federal funding towards college education. Despite some conflicting studies showing little to no direct relationship, the consensus seems to be leaning towards the idea that federal subsidies enable increased expenses at universities. Even if there is no causal link, calls for the government to foot the bill for education are pre-

ture. This is treating a symptom rather than the illness.

In recent years administrative positions within universities have grown at a rate much greater than teaching positions. "According to the Department of Education data, administrative positions at colleges and universities grew by 60 percent between 1993 and 2009, which Bloomberg reported was 10 times the rate of growth of tenured faculty positions" (excerpt from Paul F. Campos, The New York Times). Inquiry is needed to make sure these costs are truly benefiting students.

Probably the most easily observed expense at universities is campus expansion or modification. With increasing enormity, universities nationwide are constructing extravagant buildings with the intention to create a persona of elite education. Outstanding debt at over 200 universities more than doubled from 2000 to 2011, much of it coming from construction. Again the relationship between

see "Subsidizing college" PAGE 10

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# PoBev named 'Best Event Series'



PHOTO BY **Brad Keyes**  
Captain Cooper Limb (left) and Derek Fontaine Jr. (right) prepare for their game against BYU.

**By Isabel Forinash**  
STAFF WRITER

Utah State University's Poetry and a Beverage, or PoBev, was named "Best Event Series" by the National Association for Campus Activities after entering the competition in November 2015.

PoBev, a monthly event that brings students together to listen to student-performed poetry and music and enjoy refreshments, won the award based on the consistent large number of students that attend and how much it has grown over the past couple of years.

Naturally, PoBev qualified for the competition because it is an event series that recurs every month on a college campus. However, the students and committee that organize the event had to go through a submission process for the competition that required a little extra work.

They created a portfolio of the budget, attendance rates, and advertising techniques used to market PoBev. In the portfolio, they also included information that they had on this year's success with PoBev and any posters and pictures that have been used for PoBev in previous years.

The information included in the portfolio was enough to showcase the strides that PobeV has made since it began, especially just in this last year.

When it first started, PoBev was located in the Hub of the Taggart Student Center and outside on the patios. Since then attendance rates have increased so much as to have to move the location for the event from the Sky Room to the TSC Lounges and now the TSC ballroom.

"I remember when it was on the patio and it had been interesting to see the progression," says Nate Dukatz, a senior at Utah State who is majoring in Management Information Systems and minoring in Computer Science.

Dukatz works with about 5-10 other students on a committee that prepares for PoBev accordingly, depending on the theme for the month and any extra activities planned for the evening.

Dukatz and his committee also receive help from an appointed adviser and all the people that work at the school doing stage setup, sound and lights. Much of the committee's budget goes toward these setups and any catering services that are needed for the event.

Dukatz attributes much of PoBev's growth to Spencer Bitner, the main manager of stage setup and lights. Bitner has been working with the monthly event since the beginning and has seen how PoBev has changed and how students' participation in it has changed.

PoBev was and is intended to be an event where students could go to showcase their performance talents. These talents can include a range of things, from reading original

storybooks to performing musical numbers and covers of their favorites songs. Just recently though and as a part of its growth, PoBev has expanded to include exciting minute-to-win-it games and special guest artists like Kitfox. Just last month both of these additions were featured at PoBev.

Dukatz said special extensions like these are what attract more and more students to the event every month.

"I have noticed more people coming to listen and pay attention to the talent on stage since the switch, which I think is a great thing," he said.

The change of locations around campus in order to adapt to the growing number of students that attend paired with the themed games and featured local bands has added to the overall flow and efficiency of the event, he said.

"We have generally been able to have more students perform at each PoBev this year than in years past," Dukatz said.

Many students that have performed at PoBev have said that they appreciate the opportunity to be able to use the event as an outlet to express themselves.

In the most recent PoBev event on March 26, almost all students who participated performed original compositions of poems and songs.

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# 3 April Fool's Day pranks to pull on your roommates



**Zach Rogers**  
"Mr. Roger's Neighborhood"  
–Zach Rogers is a sophomore studying PR. He wants to eat more chocolate.  
– zrogers2222@gmail.com

April 1 is a jokester's favorite day, and possibly his or her friend's worst nightmare.

One of the biggest problems with April Fools' Day is finding a joke to play on someone. What is going too far and what ends up being underwhelming? Let's take a look at a few ideas that range on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being totally underwhelming, and 5 being downright mean.

## 1. KOOL-AID IN THE SHOWER HEAD. (4)

This joke is a little messed up as it could end up dying someone's hair. The Kool-Aid trick doesn't take a lot of planning; all you need is one packet of Kool-Aid, a detachable shower head, and a poor, unsuspecting victim.

Step one: Make sure you wake up early enough to shower first.

Step two: Detach shower head and pour a packet of Kool-Aid into the shower head.

Step three: Reattach the shower head.  
Step four: Wait and see.

Chances are your roommate will be furious, possibly yell the occasional obscenity and want extreme revenge. From personal experience, I can say that this is a prank you should only play on someone with a good sense of humor — otherwise friendships or relationships could be at risk.

## 2. REMOVE SOUP CAN LABELS. (3)

Pulling this prank off requires you to be extra sneaky, almost secret agent status. I would recommend messing with your neighbors with this little joke. It's not too mean, and by the end your neighbors get a surprise every day. You need a few household supplies: scissors and a sharpie (optional). This will take a little extra time to set up.

Step one: Get into your neighbor's house (make sure you do it in a legal way, we don't need anyone getting arrested).

Step two: Mark the bottom of each can with a mark that you can easily identify in the case that you feel guilty and want to help out.

Step three: Remove any and all labels (easiest to do this with the scissors that you should have with you at this point).

Step four: Sneak out.

This is a fun prank to pull and its fun to watch your victim play roulette each time they want soup. There is also an optional continuation with this prank. If you save the labels put them in a box and a few weeks later drop the box off at their door knock and run. Then go back an hour or so later and watch them try and figure out what label goes to what can. Very entertaining.

## 3. THE CLASSIC. (1)

Who doesn't remember being a kid and toilet papering someone's house? Those nights I felt on top of the world, and it's pretty fun to relive that!

Step one: Get a bunch of toilet paper.  
Step two: Go crazy.  
It's fun and harmless, and hey, who doesn't need free toilet paper?

Have fun on April Fools', but don't go too far. And if you have a particularly hilarious prank, comment below. We'll keep them in mind for next year.

# Batman v Superman: A movie worth seeing



PHOTO BY **Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.**  
Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

"Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" was one of the most highly anticipated movie releases of the year.

Since its Friday release, moviegoers have been packing theaters across the country for a movie that promises to finally settle an argument almost as old as the superheroes themselves.

While it does this and ended up being a great movie, it falls somewhat short of the movie I was hoping it would be.

The movie starts out strong, by highlighting both Superman and Batman at their best.

Batman is shown as a shadowy warrior, brutally punishing the villains of Gotham with a vengeful rage. Superman is portrayed as an almost Godlike force, capable of being anywhere in the blink of an eye and all but indestructible. In fact, on more than one occasion in the movie Superman is compared to a God-like or Messiah-like figure.

The two finally meet in one of the best scenes in the movie, engaging in an interesting argument about their contrasting styles of

see "Batman v Superman" PAGE 6



**COLE HAMMOND**  
"Because Why Not"  
–Cole Hammond is a sophomore majoring in marketing and economics. He instantly recognized Clark Kent as Superman despite Kent cleverly disguising himself by putting on glasses.

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@colehammondUSU



# Color Me Pink



PHOTO BY Brad Keyes  
A throng of people enjoys the Holi Chalk Festival in Spanish Fork on Saturday, March 26.



**ASHLEY STILSON**  
"Stilson Speaks"  
—Ashley is majoring in journalism. She loves new adventures and writing for the Statesman.  
  
— ashley.ruth.stilson@aggiemail.usu.edu

Last Saturday, strangers ran their hands down the side of my face, put their fingers through my pony tail and blew in my face. And I thanked them for it.

Where do we draw the line when showing love to strangers?

Obviously, we act differently around strangers than we do around friends on campus. It's to be expected. We don't walk up and hug random strangers. We don't touch passersby faces with our hands. The biggest gesture of love strangers show one another is a smile at most. (Excluding, perhaps, True Aggie night.)

But an interesting phenomenon occurs when strangers come together at common events such as rallies or concerts or the aftermath of tragedies. Emotions run high. People feel vulnerable. Strangers connect.

Such is the experience when one attends Holi, also known as the festival of colors or the festival of sharing love.

The Hindu festival of Holi is a two-day spring event that is celebrated mainly in India and Nepal. In Utah, thousands celebrate Holi on the steps of the Radha Krishna Temple in Spanish Fork. Interestingly, if you look up "Holi" on Wikipedia, the key picture is not from India or Nepal, but from this event in Spanish Fork.

The most noticeable characteristic of the festival? Color. Everywhere.

Colored chalk powder dusts everything at the temple grounds, including the people. Everyone is fair game. Old, young, male, female, rich, poor, friend or stranger are all covered in colored chalk powder. Green, blue, pink, yellow and orange clouds of powder rise above the crowd. Break out the gas masks.

I was an etic observer of Holi until last weekend. I'd never attended before. I'd barely even heard about it.

I remember as my friend and I walked toward the festival, we passed groups of people leaving the festival. Often these people had smiles on their faces, but others had the stoic look of surviving a kaleidoscope apocalypse. Maybe they got too much dust in their eyes.

Holi celebrates the arrival of spring and an end of winter, a time for strangers to meet,

laugh, forgive and give thanks. In the case of its origin story, Holi also symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.

The legend tells of demon King Hiranyakashipu, who wanted everyone to worship him. However, his son, Prahlad, refused and devoted himself to another god. In punishment, Hiranyakashipu commanded his sister, the demon Holika, to take Prahlad and walk into a burning fire. Holika thought she had protection for the fire, but Prahlad was saved by the god he worshiped and demon Holika was burned instead. Thus, Holi also celebrates triumph of devotion.

I don't think many Holi celebrators know the legend of Holika and Prahlad, but that doesn't stop people from chanting in unison "peace, love and unity" while throwing color into the air.

Come festival time, I was splattered with colors. Mostly pink.

At the festival, shirtless teenagers held up cardboard signs with the words "free hugs" and "free kisses." Laughing toddlers rode on their father's shoulders. Crowd surfers rode a wave of hands throughout the day.

Most people wore handkerchiefs or masks to keep out the dust. Performers stood on a stage facing the temple, singing songs and leading chants. The walls of the temple were covered with colored hand prints. Everyone was colored an equal measure of rainbow.

Honestly, I was taken aback at how quickly strangers surrendered their prejudices and barriers concerning one another. It was as if everyone made an unspoken agreement to forget discrimination and focus on painting participants like human tie-dye. How quickly, when given a safe chance, we renounce our biases concerning one another.

My friend threw yellow color at one woman as she passed us and the woman spread her arms wide so my friend had a good shot. Such trust is rarely given on any other occasion.

In our world of trouble and terror, we say it's hard to show love to strangers. We say it's hard to trust one another. I agree. But just because something is hard doesn't mean it's impossible. Holi festivals prove that.

Just because the festival of showing love ends at 5 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon, it doesn't mean our love for others should fade. It doesn't mean we should fade back into our prejudices. We should stand out brilliantly against the dark hue of the intolerances as bright spots of indiscriminating love.

If you look closely at my hair, it's still colored pink in odd spots. Not that I didn't try to wash it out. I don't remember which stranger put it there, but it doesn't matter. The color will fade. I hope it doesn't fade too quickly.

**"Batman v Superman" FROM PAGE 5**  
superhero.

Speaking of their styles, I can't write a review of this movie without saying something about Batman. The Batman portrayed in this film is a darker, angrier Batman than I'm used to. Oh, and his whole "no killing" rule? Pretty much more of a guideline than an actual rule.

Even if you set aside the scenes in the movie where Batman blatantly kills henchmen, when he and Superman fight there is no doubt that Batman is ready to put down the Man of Steel. This premeditated murder is a big departure from the Dark Knight I'm used to seeing.

Early on in the movie, the film raises a lot

of big questions that are both relevant and thought provoking. As a society, have we, like Superman, been so busy asking what we can do that we haven't paused long enough to ask ourselves what we should do? Is it justifiable to act outside the law like Batman? Or without oversight like Superman?

The film even grapples briefly with bigger philosophical questions about the nature of power, God, good and evil. Sadly, this early foray into the intellectual is quickly forgotten as the movie digresses into the prize-fight showcase that we all sort of knew it would be.

But as much as the film does wrong, there are even more things that it does very right.

Ben Affleck (Batman) and Henry Cavill

(Superman) both give memorable and unique performances in their respective roles. Henry Cavill actually makes me like Superman, and that's no small feat.

Jesse Eisenberg's portrayal of Lex Luthor is particularly memorable, giving us an antagonist that is a combination of Mark Zuckerberg and Victor Frankenstein. Eisenberg plays the supervillain drastically different in all of the right ways.

The movie also does what no other superhero movie has done well before: it shows the human cost of having huge battles in the middle of a population center. This makes the movie feel more real and gives a different perspective on our heroes' actions.

Its incredible effects, spectacular fight scenes and its simple ability to make everyone in the audience feel a little like a kid again make the film exceedingly enjoyable. Cap all of this off with a strong and highly emotional ending, and you've got a movie well worth the price of admission.

All things considered, I'd say that "Batman v. Superman" squeaks into a four out of five star rating. The movie was entertaining and I'll probably see it again before it leaves theaters, but it doesn't quite live up to the high bar that it set for itself. Nevertheless, it makes for a great experience, and if you've got a free evening, make time for this one.



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**@Michael\_Scott94**  
Yesterday, Canvas made me change the password I use for everything. Now I can't remember what I changed it to... #aggiestride #letmein



**@Haileebug94**  
Please don't kiss on the shuttle. #aggiestride




**@BrockDam**  
Just saw a kid touring USU decked out in BYU garb. Either someone had already made a choice or hes in for a rude awakening. #USU #Aggielife

STATE

your

CASE



**DANIEL HANSEN**  
– onthecornerofmainstreet.dh@gmail.com  
🐦 @TheGrandDanny

NORTH CAROLINA

In one of the wildest NCAA tournaments in history, coaching took an even more prevalent role as evidenced by four of the best coaches in the nation left standing at the Final Four. But which one will be cutting down the nets come Monday? Each team can certainly make a case.

Syracuse has experienced possibly the greatest coaching job Jim Boeheim has ever accomplished, riding their impressive zone defense into the national semifinals.

Oklahoma has been led through its region

## Who will win the NCAA tournament?


by Buddy Hield and his amazing and historic play. Oklahoma’s Lon Kruger is the best head coach no one seems to know about.

Villanova finally got it right in the tournament this year, relying on a stingy defense that gives up only 63 points per game and held title-favorite Kansas to just 59 points, while maintaining a highly efficient and potent offense.

UNC has dominated every opponent they’ve faced in the Big Dance, led by big man Brice Johnson who is averaging a near double-double for the season at 21 points per game and 9.8 rebounds. The team has found its shooting stroke in the tournament, shooting over 38 percent from 3-point range.

Before this tournament started, I picked UNC to win an epic showdown with Hield and Oklahoma in the championship. I stand by that championship matchup. The amount of talent UNC has, inside and outside the perimeter, is staggering. They’ve outscored opponents by an average of 16 points this year. Coach Roy Williams can coach with anyone else in the nation.

Expect the Tar Heels to be celebrating Monday night.



**BEN FORDHAM**  
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🐦 @bfordham6

SYRACUSE

Syracuse will defeat North Carolina in the Final Four, then stun the world of sports by taking down Oklahoma to win the NCAA Tournament for the second time in school history.

Syracuse has surprised everyone in this tournament. They weren’t even supposed to play in this damn thing, but they’ve managed to overcome the odds as the first 10-seed to ever play in the Final Four.

This tournament has arguably been the most impressive coaching performance of Jim Boehiem’s legendary career.

North Carolina won’t be an easy victory for the Orange but I think Syracuse matches up well with the Tar Heels in the Final Four.

North Carolina isn’t a three-point shooting team. Less than 20 percent of their offense comes from three-point shots.

Syracuse’s two-three zone will be a nightmare for North Carolina if they plan on beating the Orange with inside scoring. Oklahoma’s offense is explosive and Buddy Hield is one of the best shooters in the tournament’s history. However, his ability to shoot from long range won’t be enough to carry the Sooners over Syracuse.

Syracuse is one of the grittiest and smartest teams I have ever seen in the tournament. Boehiem’s ability to make the necessary adjustments to win close games in this tournament is simply amazing.

Boeheim’s defensive schemes and adjustments will rattle Buddy Hield and Oklahoma in a low-scoring championship game and the Syracuse Orange will become the first 10-seed to win the NCAA Tournament.

“Legislative wrap up” FROM PAGE 1

\$1.2 MILLION FOR MARKET DEMAND PROGRAMS AND THE GRADUATE INITIATIVE

The Legislature allocated \$5 million across the state, and \$1.2 will go across to provide new higher education opportunities for USU. The funding goes toward investing in workforce needs like job development and providing degrees related to local industries, said Abercrombie.

\$950,000 TO SUPPORT USU'S EXTENSION WATER CONSERVATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The allocation will go toward USU’s partnership with The Center for Water Efficient Landscaping. The organization searches for efficient water usage by assisting with water checks, water maps and landscaping issues.

Abercrombie said he is really excited about

the funding for water quality research because it demonstrates just how much the legislators trust USU’s research capacity.

“Really, this was a bipartisan issue,” he said. “They need better research and better communication how Utah can be wise water users.”

\$250,000 FOR CONTINUED AIR QUALITY RESEARCH AT THE UINTAH BASIN BINGHAM RESEARCH CENTER

The money provides money for the next seven years for USU to carry out air quality research in the Uintah Basin, said Seth Lyman, the director of the Bingham Center air quality research team. That money allows the team to conduct projects like measuring organic compounds concentrations and improving computer models that simulate air quality.

“The research is important to the physical health and well-being of Uintah Basin residents,” Lyman said.

There are many unanswered about winter-time ozone and how to best control it, he said.

The Uintah Basin is very rural, but it also has a robust oil and gas industry. The emissions from the oil and gas industry make up the majority of ozone-forming pollutants emitted into the Basin’s atmosphere.

Lyman said he doesn’t like to distinguish between research happening in Vernal and research happening in Logan.

“We are one university, and high-quality, high-impact research happening at any of USU’s campuses benefits the whole organization,” he said.

\$100,000 for expansion of the USU Assistive Technology Lab in Roosevelt

The money will go toward outfitting the building with equipment that helps people with disabilities function in their day-to-day lives, whether that means fixing electric wheelchairs or welding an arm rail in someone’s house, said Derrik Tollefson, the Interim Dean and Executive Director of the Uintah Basin campus. Also, the assistive technology

lab offers those services at a fairly low cost.

“Think of it as a tailor shop, suit that doesn't fit and donate that and cater to make it fit someone else,” he said.

Tollefson said it is really exciting to bring something like this to the community for the first time.

“[Vernal] is a long way from metropolitan location and we don't have this service available, but we still have a lot of people with disabilities and we can provide them with the resources,” he said.

A two percent merit-based compensation increase plus an additional one percent health benefits

Compensation is one that is pushed hard for and it does the best they can for salary increase for our faculty and staff, Abercrombie said.

– morgan.pratt.robinson@gmail.com

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# Relationship pitfalls to avoid at all costs



**LOGAN JONES**  
"TRAIL BLAZIN"  
— Logan Jones is a junior majoring in journalism. He's currently dating the prettiest girl in Utah. Contact him with feedback at:

—logantjones@aggiemail.usu.edu  
@Logantj

"Today's avoiding relationship pitfalls seminar has been cancelled."

This sign hung on the door just across the hall from the Statesman office Wednesday, a kind of hilarious omen for anyone who happened to be looking forward to the meeting. I personally hadn't heard of the seminar until now, nor had I planned on attending, but I couldn't help but feel for those who may have been looking forward to this event. As someone fortunate enough to have a platform for stating opinions to the public, I felt it was only appropriate that I fill in for the cancelled seminar with a few pointers.

I'm certainly no relationship expert, but on

the subject of relationship pitfalls I think I can hold my own. Relationships are a tricky subject, and worthwhile advice is usually tough to come by as it is so often offered by your perpetually single friends who probably shouldn't be advising anybody.

What follows is a purely hypothetical list of what you might want to consider dating red flags. Please note any references that follow are entirely fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

First and foremost, beware of special snowflake syndrome. Did the guy you're into just get mad at you for taking a nap instead of texting him back immediately without delay? Does your date refer to herself as "Princess"? How many pictures of Marilyn Monroe appear on her Facebook page? Does the dude you're crushing on think he's the bomb because his dad spent more money on a truck than his friends' dads? Has he invited you to a pizza party where you can totally hear all about an exciting summer job opportunity?

I'm not going to tell you what to do, but if I were, I'd tell you to get out of that relationship as quickly as possible. There's a certain brand of person who honestly believes life owes them something, and that any violation of this

is reason enough to think they deserve something more extravagant. In a relationship this often takes the ugly form of unfair expectations, which in extreme cases constitutes emotional abuse and in mild cases still means you're dating the exact kind of impolite meanie your mother would disapprove of.

Next, what kinds of things are you and your significant other into? This should be sort of obvious, but generally you want a relationship with someone who wants some of the same things you do. This is the first thing to slip your mind the minute you see a cute girl staring you down from across a classroom. Dating someone out of convenience or because being single kind of sucks sometimes is not a good reason for dating. It may in fact be one of the worst reasons for dating.

I may be underqualified to be writing advice columns but here's one thing I know — dating someone because it's easy is like stealing a car from the bus loop simply because someone left the keys in the ignition. You can only rationalize your reckless decision for so long before the thrill dies down and the joyride ends and your sorry butt is left pleading with your friends to come bail you out.

And you can bet those friends won't ever let

you forget what a stupid decision that was for the rest of your days.

Lastly, don't put too much stock in how you think things are "supposed" to be. Relationships aren't like The Notebook. At least I hope yours aren't, because it'd be pretty crappy of you to sleep with someone else's fiancé. Dating isn't a means to an end anyway — it's not like you get to finally lock down a spouse and then give up on all the fun stuff you did at the start of your relationship.

I mean, you technically could do that, but then your marriage will suck and you'll have a whole host of other issues to deal with.

Date someone you actually enjoy being around. If you can sit on the same couch while one of you completes four chapters of mind-numbing geography homework while the other drifts off into a power nap, you've got something special worth hanging onto. It may not be the most classically romantic thing in the world, but the ability to just be friends is underrated. Lots of people can buy flowers, but rare is the person who will just sit and keep you company without any other plans that day.

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## "Subsidizing college" FROM PAGE 4

these costs and what hits the student's wallet is disputable but this doesn't mean we shouldn't look at these costs more closely.

After outlining potential reasons that students pay more for their degrees than previous generations I'm still left with the question of if it's worth it. For this I went to the St. Louis Fed website and found some

startling statistics. In the last 20 years the increase in wages is roughly only 10 percent for degree holders. While I applaud presidential candidates for trying to make school more accessible I cannot embrace their proposals. Unless I know an effort is underway to put students first and the cost to benefit ratio is improving I will not support increased federal subsidies.

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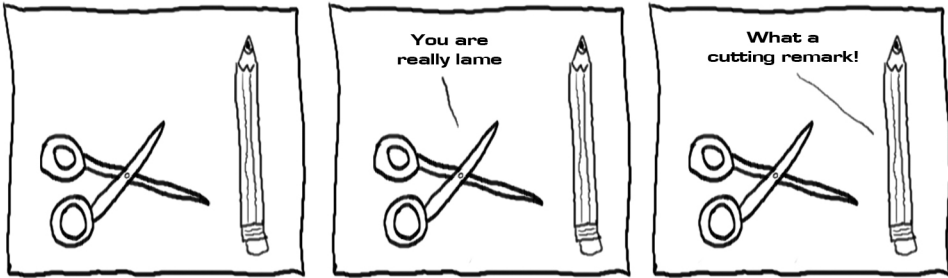
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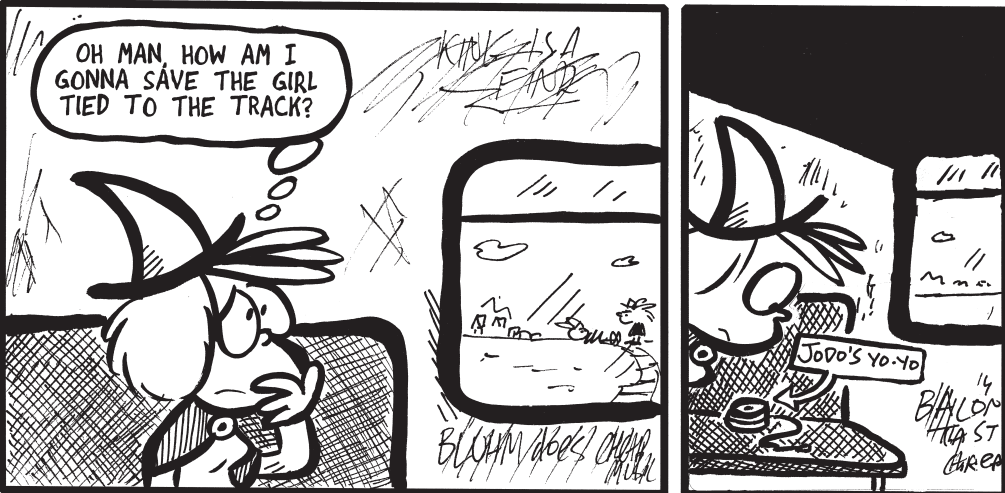
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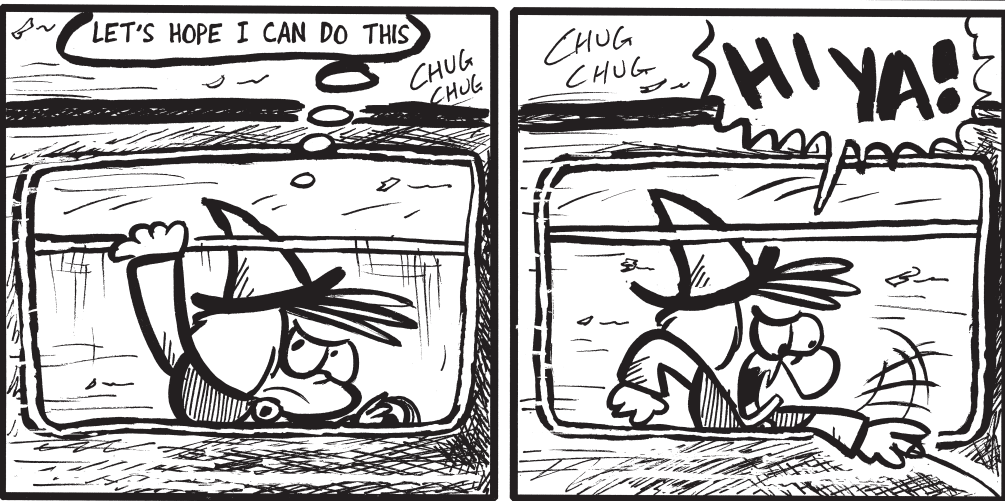
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# THURSDAY, MARCH 31

<b>Day of Civility</b> USU Campus Free, All day	<b>Baby Animal Days</b> American West Heritage Center \$7-\$9. Adults \$9 Children 3-11, \$7, 10:00 a.m.	<b>Modern Sciences Depen- dence on Religion</b> Utah State University  Free, 10:30 a.m.	<b>USU Natural Resources Week- 5th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon</b> Natural Resources Building Atrium on the USU campus  \$7-\$10, 11:00 a.m.
<b>iPad Class</b> North Logan City Library Free, 2:00 p.m.	<b>An Evening with Temple Grandin</b> TSC Ballroom Free, 5:00 p.m.	<b>Calmus</b> USU Performance Hall, USU Campus \$10-\$24. General admission: Regular \$24, Student with ID \$10, Youth \$10. No children under eight, 7:30 p.m.	

# FRIDAY, APRIL 1

<b>Baby Animal Days</b> American West Heritage Center \$7-\$9, 10:00 a.m.	<b>USU Natural Resources Week-Bouldering Competition</b> USU Aggie Recreation Center ‘ARC’  Free, 3:00 p.m.	<b>Taylor Clark Spring Recital</b> USU Fine Arts Center 214  Free, 4:30 p.m.	<b>Talk by Photography Pro- fessor Carsten Meier</b>  North Logan Library  Free, 7:00 p.m.
<b>24-hour gaming marathon</b> Old Main rooms 227 and 406  Free, 9:00 p.m.			

# SATURDAY, APRIL 2

<b>Lighting for Portraits Workshop at CacheArts</b> Thatcher-Young Mansion \$98, 9:00 a.m.	<b>Natural Resources Week-Annual Predator vs. Prey 5K Run</b> USU Taggart Student Center, west sidewalk area  \$12, 9:30 a.m.	<b>Baby Animal Days</b> American West Heritage Center  \$7-\$9, 10:00 a.m.	<b>2016 Spring Strut Turkey Hunting Clinic</b> Hardware Ranch WMA Free, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Family 1st Saturday: World Music</b> Old Main Free, 10:00 a.m.			

# MONDAY, APRIL 4

<b>Movie Monday- The Peanuts Movie</b> North Logan City Library  Free, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Generation Study Abroad Scholarship</b> Utah State University Office of Study Abroad  Free, 8:00 a.m.	<b>Psychological First Aid: Supporting Friends and Fellow Students in Times of Stress</b> Utah State University TSC  Free, 4:00 p.m.	<b>National Public Health Week Forum</b> USU Library RM 154 Free, 11:00 a.m.
<b>Kitchen Sisters</b> USU Performance Hall, USU Campus Free but tickets required, Visit <a href="http://upr.org">upr.org</a> or <a href="http://arts.usu.edu">arts.usu.edu</a> , 7:00 p.m.			

